



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) was forecast at 3.6 percent for June, up two-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month and from one year ago, as shown in Northeast Idaho Table 1. The LMA is 1.6 percentage points lower than the state rate of 5.2 percent and 2.3 percentage points lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.9 percent. Each of the four counties increased two-tenths of a percentage point over the month except Bingham, which increased one-tenth of a percentage point. As school recessed for summer break, new and seasonal employees entered the workforce, increasing the *Civilian Labor Force* count. Because the employment status of these new entrants also is counted, this can cause changes in the unemployment rate. In this case, the percentage of unemployed increased, thus raising the unemployment rate, both month-over-month and year-over-year. Bonneville and Jefferson Counties increased 0.3 percentage points from June 2001, while Butte and Bingham Counties decreased 0.6 and 0.1 percentage points, respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, increased 0.3 percentage points month-over-month and 0.4 percentage points from June 2001.

Other counties in Northeast Idaho saw either no change or small increases over the month with the exception of Custer and Clark Counties, which decreased nine-tenths of a percentage point and three-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Two of the counties, Clark and Teton, increased from June 2001, with Teton County showing a gain of 1.8 percentage points. Teton County was affected by the national economic slump and the events of 9-11 because it is largely dependent on tourism. All other counties showed decreases in the unemployment rates, with Fremont and Custer Counties showing the largest at 0.8 and 0.6 percentage points, respectively. As shown on

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	June 2002*	May 2002	June 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	83,200	82,020	82,950	1.4	0.3
Unemployment	3,010	2,820	2,840	6.7	6.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%		
Total Employment	80,190	79,200	80,120	1.3	0.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	84,410	82,280	84,180	2.6	0.3
Unemployment	2,670	2,360	2,500	13.1	6.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2%	2.9%	3.0%		
Total Employment	81,740	79,920	81,680	2.3	0.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	10,040	9,370	10,220	7.2	-1.8
Mining & Construction	4,950	4,390	4,660	12.8	6.2
Manufacturing	5,080	4,980	5,560	2.0	-8.6
Food Processing	2,340	2,300	3,040	1.7	-23.0
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	570	530	440	7.5	29.5
All Other Manufacturing	2,180	2,150	2,080	1.4	4.8
Service-Producing Industries	54,430	53,560	54,430	1.6	0.0
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,380	2,300	2,470	3.5	-3.6
Wholesale Trade	5,480	5,440	5,870	0.7	-6.6
Retail Trade	11,680	11,530	11,350	1.3	2.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,960	1,950	1,900	0.5	3.2
Services	21,690	21,330	21,540	1.7	0.7
Government Administration	5,700	5,350	5,860	6.5	-2.7
Government Education	5,540	5,660	5,440	-2.1	1.8
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

State Table 1 on page 3, June 2002 unemployment rates for Northeast Idaho counties were average for the state and, in some cases, even lower than average: Clark 3.1, Custer 5.9, Fremont 5.4, Lemhi 5.9, Madison 1.8, and Teton 3.8. Madison County had the lowest rate in the state.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 1,540 jobs month-over-month with *Goods-Producing Industries* and *Service-Producing Industries* adding almost equally. *Construction* added the most of any industry with a gain of 560 jobs. *Special Trade* jobs alone added over 400. *Manufacturing* added 100 jobs, almost equally from the three sectors listed (*Food Processing*, *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment*, *All Other Manufacturing*). *Service-Producing Industries* showed gains in all industries except *Government Education* as would be expected with most schools experiencing summer breaks. *Hotels & Other Lodging* added over 110 jobs of the 360 job gain in *Services*. Again, this is expected with tourism season kicking in at the onset of summer. *Business Services* and *Amusement & Recreation* also had gains of over 50 jobs each. *Government Administration* experienced a large gain as local and federal government put on workers for the season.

A year-over-year comparison shows an overall loss in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* of almost 200. A decrease of 700 jobs in *Food Processing* caused *Manufacturing* to show the largest industry drop for that time period. *Wholesale Trade* experienced a loss of almost 400. Though jobs in *Manufacturing* and *Wholesale Trade* are classified as nonfarm, they are highly affected by the agricultural industry due to the product that both industries typically use in the LMA—potatoes. Automation of equipment and good potato prices added to a quick and efficient year for handling the crop, reducing the need for as many workers as used in years past. A decrease in almost 1,000 jobs was seen between *Manufacturing* and *Wholesale Trade* year-over-year. Larger gains were seen in *Construction* as the season is almost at full-capacity, and *Retail Trade*, specifically *General Merchandise*, *Apparel*, and *Eating & Drinking Establishments*.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Thrifty Car Sales opened in Idaho Falls on the corner of Woodruff Avenue and Lincoln Road at the end of May. It specializes in selling used, late-model cars from rental lots and corporate fleets. The company is based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and owns Dollar Rental Car. It has about 60 Thrifty outlets and plans to add 40 more this year.
- Taylor Crossing on the River plans to open its Chevron convenience store and gas station, along with an Iceberg Drive Inn, all under one roof on the corner of Pancheri and Utah Avenue in Idaho Falls. The development's first completed building is scheduled for a grand opening on September 21. Iceberg Drive Inn originally opened in Salt Lake in the 1960's, but recently opened to franchising opportunities. The Inn has been voted as having the best fries and shakes in Utah and is known for its oversized, hand-breaded onion rings and jumbo burgers. It will have a "Happy Days" atmosphere. The company is expected to have 20 new franchises opened by the end of 2002.
- Vickers Western Wear moved locations and opened its new 13,000-square-foot building at 2665 North Holmes Avenue in Idaho Falls in July. The company has two other stores in Pocatello. The larger location allows for an expanded selection of tack, men's suits, and ladies' clothing. The store carries a full line of cowboy boots along with a large selection of work boots, shoes, and non-Western merchandise. The company also features a "Kid's Korral" of selected items for children. The store is open seven days a week. More information can be found at www.vickersonline.com.
- Officials in Swan Valley broke ground on a new building in July to house fire and emergency vehicles, city offices, and a county sheriff's office. It is located on Highway 31 past the Rainey Creek store. The pre-engineered steel building will take about 90 days to be up and running. The Osterkamp and Rockefeller families each donated \$25,000 to the project. The 2-acre plot of land it will occupy was donated by Rainey Creek, LLC.

- The Idaho Falls Regional Airport finished its second of three phases of construction—the middle section of the airport. It now has new jet bridges that will allow the airport to accommodate smaller commuter planes and jets along with 737s. Escalators bring passengers to the level where the bridges attach. Because of these new renovations, Big Sky Airlines has agreed to fly two non-stop 19-seat commuter flights daily from Idaho Falls to Denver starting September 16, bringing the number to three airlines that will fly out of the airport. Big Sky Airlines is based in Billings, Montana, and operates in eight states.
- K & R Adventure Gear, a small outdoors company that was located in Stonewalls Rock Gym, moved into Rogers Hotel on Shoup Avenue in Idaho Falls in July. The store specializes in gear for hikers, climbers, and skiers. The company has the philosophy to "try before you buy," and use special elevated structures that are set up for customers to try out equipment for fit and preference before purchasing. The store occupies 1,300-square feet.
- Grandpa's Southern Barbeque opened on West Broadway in Idaho Falls in July. Owners Taro and Karen Golden, friends of the owners of the Grandpa's in Arco, jumped on the opportunity to open in the city. They offer catering and take-out and plan to add delivery service in the winter. It will be located next to the new Papa Murphy's.
- Bubba's Barbeque plans to reopen on the corner of Northgate Mile and First Street in Idaho Falls. Kasey Miller, daughter of Jim (Bubba) Shivler, will run the restaurant with her husband, Brian. They recently ran the Bubba's in Jackson, Wyoming. Call 523-2822 for specific information.
- L A Weight Loss Center opened in Idaho Falls at 503 South Woodruff Avenue in July. The company has more than 450 centers in the United States and offers one-on-one counseling, stabilization, and maintenance once weight is lost. More information is available at 1-800-764-7546.

Madison County

- Pioneer Equipment Company, based in Houston, Texas, purchased the CASE-International Harvester contract for the Upper Valley from Tri-County Equipment and is awaiting the go-ahead to build an 18,000-square-foot building on Airport Road, north of Erickson Pontiac-GMC in Rexburg. The company plans 10,000-square feet for shop space and 8,000-square feet for parts and sales. Its 5-acre lot includes room for vehicle and equipment storage. Pioneer expects to employ up to ten people, but could increase the number to 20 if sales go well. Val Skinner from the Idaho Falls location will manage the store.

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